

Message Text

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11

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-03 INR-07

ERDA-05 /054 W

----- 023760

R 112145Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1832

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY RIO DE JANEIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 4634

DEPT PASS ACDA FOR DIRECTOR IKLE AND ERDA

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, AR

SUBJECT: ACDA TEAM VISIT TO ARGENTINA

1. CONFIRMING MY RECENT CONVERSATION IN WASHINGTON WITH ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE, I AGREE THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO CONSIDER SERIOUSLY AN ACDA TEAM VISIT TO ARGENTINA TO DISCUSS DISARMAMENT MATTERS. THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED BRAZIL-GERMANY NUCLEAR AGREEMENT AND "INSTRUMENT" CLEARLY CREATE A SOMEWHAT NEW SITUATION WHICH MAY WELL AFFECT ARGENTINE ARMAMENT DECISIONS OVER THE LONG RANGE. FURTHER, IT WOULD CLEARLY MAKE IT SOMEWHAT EASIER FOR U.S.-ARGENTINE BILATERAL DISARMAMENT DISCUSSIONS TO BE HELD IN A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE THAN WAS THE CASE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION.

2. AS I MENTIONED TO MR. IKLE, I FEEL THAT SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE BEST RECEIVED IF IT WERE MADE JUST TO ARGENTINA, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO BRAZIL. THE PRESENT STATE OF ARGENTINA-BRAZIL RELATIONS APPEARS TO US TO BE SUCH THAT ARGENTINE SUSPICIONS WOULD BE AROUSED AND THE SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS HERE POSSIBLY PREJUDICED SHOULD THE TEAM STOP IN BRAZIL EITHER ENROUTE TO OR FROM THE TALKS HERE.

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3. AS TALKS IN THE NUCLEAR FIELD LIKELY ALSO TO TOUCH INEVITABLY ON COOPERATION IN CONTEXT OF GREATER IMPLEMENTATION OF U.S.-ARGENTINA ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT, IT WOULD APPEAR TO US TO BE DESIRABLE FOR ERDA REPRESENTATIVE TO PARTICIPATE AS MEMBER OF TEAM. IF THIS PROVES IMPOSSIBLE, HOWEVER, S&T COUNSELOR/ERDA SCIREP WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MANNER, AND HIS PARTICIPATION WOULD APPEAR ADVANTAGEOUS IN ANY CASE. APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATION FROM OES/SCI/AE WOULD ALSO APPEAR HIGHLY DESIRABLE IN ANY CASE.

4. WE WOULD ENVISION A MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL AND IO AFFAIRS. WHETHER OR NOT CNEA PARTICIPATED IN SUCH A MEETING, WE WOULD SUGGEST A SEPARATE MEETING AT CNEA HEADQUARTERS. INEVITABLY, THERE WOULD NEED TO BE DISCUSSION OF GENERAL WORLD DISARMAMENT MATTERS AS WELL AS THE PRESENT SITUATION AND OUTLOOK IN SOUTH AMERICA. IF TEAM SO WISHED, WE FEEL CERTAIN CNEA WOULD BE PLEASED ARRANGE VISITS TO ANY OF THEIR FACILITIES, E.G. ATUCHA, EZEIZA CENTER, CONSTITUYENTES, AND/OR BARILOCHE CENTER. IN SUCH CASE, WE WOULD, OF COURSE, MAKE CLEAR THAT VISITS WERE NOT IN ANY WAY INTENDED TO REPRESENT "INSPECTIONS", BUT MERELY FOR PURPOSES OF FAMILIARIZATION.

5. WE WOULD CERTAINLY RECOMMEND THAT VISIT BE KEPT EXTREMELY LOW KEY, WITH PUBLICITY HELD TO ABSOLUTE MINIMUM. CONTINGENCY STATEMENT SHOULD BE PREPARED CHARACTERIZING TALKS AS ROUTINE CONSULTATIONS ON WORLD DISARMAMENT MATTERS AMONG TWO FIRENDLY COUNTRIES, BOTH OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF CCD. THERE WILL REMAIN SOME RISK OF LOCAL PRESS BRANDING VISIT AS COERCIVE, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT RISK NOW WORTH TAKING. ESPECIALLY IF ERDA REP COULD ALSO PARTICIPATE, TALKS COULD ALSO BE BILLED (CORRECTLY) AS COVERING NUCLEAR COOPERATION AS WELL.

6. CURRENT CRISIS BETWEEN LABOR SECTOR AND GOVERNMENT HERE WOULD OBVIOUSLY RULE OUT VISIT IN VERY NEAR FUTURE. ASSUMING THAT CALM OF SORTS WILL PREVAIL BY THEN (AND ABSENT INTERVENING DEVELOPMENTS HERE WHICH WOULD NEGATE THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, IN WHICH CASE WE WILL ADVISE) WE WOULD TENTATIVELY SUGGEST THAT A VISIT SOMETIME IN AUGUST WOULD BE TIMELY AS COMING REASONABLY SOON AFTER SIGNING OF THE BRAZIL-GERMANY AGREEMENT.
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7. I LOOK FORWARD TO AN EARLY REPLY CONCERNING THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH A VISIT BY DR. IKLE AND/OR JOHN LEHMAN AND OTHERS AS SUGGESTED ABOVE.
HILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS04634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750241-0191
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750761/aaaacmw.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <07 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACDA TEAM VISIT TO ARGENTINA
TAGS: PARM, TECH, AR, US, ACDA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006